

July 24, 2018 Council Meeting

The regular meeting of the Council of the City of Martinsville, Virginia was held on July 24, 2018 in Council Chambers, Municipal Building, at 7:30 PM with Mayor Gene Teague presiding. Council Members present included Gene Teague, Sharon Hodge, Jennifer Bowles Chad Martin and Kathy Lawson. Staff present included City Manager Leon Towarnicki, City Attorney Eric Monday, Assistant City Manager Wayne Knox, Clerk of Council Karen Roberts, Finance Director Linda Conover and Community Development Susan McCulloch.

Mayor Teague called the meeting to order. Following the Pledge to the American Flag and invocation by Council Member Lawson, Teague welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Consider recognizing Sharon Brooks Hodge for her service to the citizens of Martinsville as a Council Member from January 2013 through July 2018 –Council Members presented Council Member Hodge with a proclamation and a key to the City. Council Member Hodge thanked the residents and council for allowing her to be a part of Martinsville. Public service is a very difficult job and she is grateful for the opportunity to serve. Hodge thanked the City Manager and staff for always treating her with respect. She hopes that Council does not evolve into a charity league or a homeowners association; and stated that there are some topics that need attention. The sewer rates were increased two years ago and Henry County has not been held accountable for what they owe. She feels that the public should be informed about where the New College money was spent and hold Dr, Boaz accountable. Hodge says her regret was voting against reversion four years ago; she doesn't believe Martinsville can afford the burden of constitutional offices and the schools and if she had remained on Council, she would vote reversion for that reason. Hodge feels that a special election should be held to fill her vacancy and that it should be up to the residents and not council members to choose their representative. Mayor Teague is saddened to see her leave. He sees her as analytical, smart and focused on improved processes. Although they have not always agreed on topics, he respects her passion for the residents and her beliefs. Council Member Bowles said it is hard to let Hodge go but she is happy for her future endeavors. Bowles thanked Hodge for being hard on her and challenging her; she has learned a lot from her. Bowles thanked Hodge for serving on Council and allowing her to feel like she has a place. Bowles thanked her for being a role model. Vice Mayor Martin said he was sad when Hodge announced she was leaving. Hodge has kept him humble and he appreciates her strength. Council Member Lawson said she is watched Hodge grow on Council and it has been welcoming to see her come to Council prepared, she valued opinions and she did not mind asking the tough questions. Lawson stated that she has the utmost respect for Hodge. Former Mayor Danny Turner said he appreciated his time working with Hodge on Council. Turner said Hodge worked hard to bring jobs to the City and voting against rate increases. Hodge said

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she enjoyed working with Turner and he taught her to not prejudge people. Wayne Knox, Community Development said Hodge told him early on that it would be a challenge but during her time on council, she has been an agent of change. Rosie Carter, Morning Star Church representative said Reverend Millner was unable to attend but sent his well wishes and he appreciates everything Hodge did while she was on Council. City Attorney Monday said he has always admired and appreciated women leaders. Hodge has stood up and fought for the City's best interest and she has been an excellent Council Member. City Manager Towarnicki says Hodge has a reputation for asking tough questions, which allows people to look at and think about things a little different. When the topic is discussed, there is no question where she stands.



P R O C L A M A T I O N

HONORING COUNCIL MEMBER SHARON BROOKS HODGE

WHEREAS, Sharon Brooks Hodge has served as a member of the Martinsville City Council for just over five and a half years, from January, 2013 through July, 2018; and

WHEREAS, during that time, Sharon Brooks Hodge also served on several boards and commissions representing the City of Martinsville; and

WHEREAS, Sharon Brooks Hodge has displayed outstanding dedication to the City of Martinsville and its citizens while performing her duties as a elected public servant; and

WHEREAS, it is highly appropriate that we thank Sharon Brooks Hodge for her contributions and leadership during her tenure on Council, which has helped make Martinsville an even better place to live, work, and raise a family;

NOW THEREFORE, on this 24th day of July, 2018, Martinsville City Council hereby proclaims their thanks and appreciation to Sharon Brooks Hodge for her dedication and service to the citizens of Martinsville as a member of Martinsville's City Council from January, 2013 through July, 2018.



Gene Teague
Mayor

Hear a brief presentation from Mr. Roger Wilson, a member of the Board of Aldermen for the City of Frederick, Maryland – Mr. Wilson grew up in Axton. His first introduction to public service was a school field trip to the fire department. The City of Frederick is the second largest city in Maryland with a population of 70,000 and continues to grow. Like Martinsville, Frederick has issues with heroin and opioid abuse and the senior population. In 1976, there was a major flood and from that catastrophe, they decided to build an anchor infrastructure. Wilson shared a video about Frederick. The minority community is growing as well as the economic community. Frederick is hip,

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historic, and trying to attract a younger population. Housing affordability is an issue that they continue to work on. Treatment facilities and needle exchanges are in the works to help fight the opioid epidemic. Wilson is excited to bring his family back to Martinsville since he sees so much improvement. Council Member Bowles asked about the median income and age. Wilson said median age was 36 years old and median income is \$86,000 but that salary is skewed because of those traveling to Washington or Baltimore for employment. Frederick has been branded as a “bedroom community” but they are working to change that with diverse industries.

Hear an update on the Interstate 73 project – Rob Catron and John Stirrup, I-73 Coalition Co-Executive Directors were in attendance. Catron detailed the three projects currently underway. He explained the benefits of the Martinsville-Southern Connector Study. Catron detailed the Route 220 Preservation and Improvement Plan.



The Interstate 73 Coalition

July 2018 Presentation

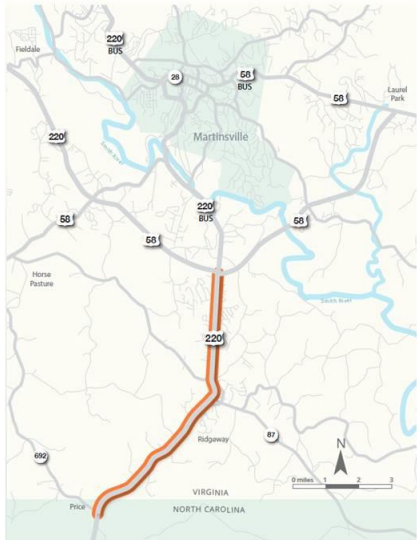


John Stirrup & Robert J. Catron
Co-Executive Directors

3 Projects Underway at this Time

1. Martinsville Southern Connector Environmental Impact Statement
 1. Partnership between Federal Highway Administration, VDOT and Local Communities
 2. Two year study and environmental review and study of options to make the corridor a limited access, divided highway and potential improvements for economic development and safety
2. Route 220 Preservation and Improvement Plan initiated by CTB a year ago is funded by repurposed congressional earmark
 1. VDOT is making presentations in Henry, Franklin and Roanoke counties on intersection improvements that are eligible for Smart Scale submissions
 1. These suggestions are, again, to improve safety and improve use of the highway for economic development
 2. Study is from the NC state line to City of Roanoke
3. Route 220 Safety Improvement Project Henry County
 1. Designed to improve safety at intersection of Route 220, Route 22 Business and Route 688

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Martinsville Southern Connector Study

In February 2018, VDOT started a study called an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to evaluate potential transportation improvements along the U.S. Route 220 corridor between the U.S. Route 58/220 Bypass and the North Carolina state line.

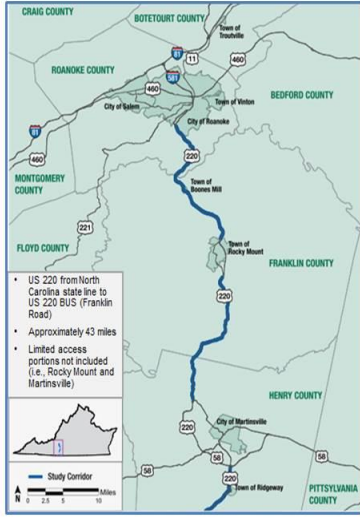
The Martinsville Connector Study is a first step toward identifying future improvements to the Route 220 corridor within its study limits. It is a separate analysis than the EIS for the I-73 corridor that was completed in November 2006.

The Martinsville Southern Connector study will focus on a potential limited access road on a new location and/or will look at potential new improvements to Route 220. The area for study generally covers Route 220 between Route 58 and the North Carolina state line.

The specific geographic limits determined and refined through the course of the study. The EIS will study the possible impacts to social, economic and natural environmental resources.

VDOT is conducting the study in coordination with the Federal Highway Administration and will be engaging other state and federal agencies throughout its development. The area for study generally covers Route 220 between Route 58 and the North Carolina state line.

The specific geographic limits determined and refined through the course of the study.



Route 220 Preservation and Improvement Plan

Purpose and Overview
The purpose of an Arterial Preservation Plan is to develop a holistic approach that identifies ways to ensure the safety and preserve the capacity of the Commonwealth's arterial highway network without wide scale roadway widenings. This Plan has been requested to identify investment recommendations that will help preserve and enhance this key transportation corridor due to the important role it plays in the region as a significant freight and tourism corridor serving Martinsville, Roanoke and the Roanoke-Blacksburg Regional Airport; a vital link within the Commonwealth's highway network, and a key facility for connections to North Carolina and points south.

Lengths and Limits
The study area is approximately 60 miles in length. The study area extends from the North Carolina line to Route 419 in Roanoke. The study area includes two limited-access bypass segments at Martinsville and Rocky Mount that are considered to be improved and therefore will not receive analysis as part of the study.


Status/Current Activities
Traffic and crash data collection have been completed and are being analyzed. Site field reviews have been conducted to identify safety and geometric deficiencies. Three public meetings are planned for late summer/early fall to inform citizens about the study and to seek citizen feedback regarding issues and concerns along the corridor. Upon completion of analysis and public feedback, recommendations will be made on improvements to maintain the existing roadway and on improvements to address geometric deficient portions of the corridor.

Route 220 Safety Improvement and Arterial Preservation Project Henry County

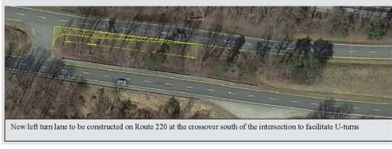
Project Description
The purpose of this project is to improve safety at the intersection where Route 220 connects with Route 220 Business and Route 688 in Henry County. Directional islands will be constructed in the median of Route 220 to prevent left turn movements from the intersecting roads. In addition, a left turn lane to facilitate U-turns on Route 220 at the crossover immediately south of the intersection also will be constructed.

The angle of the side roads and the wide median opening create longer crossing distances at Route 220's intersection with Route 220 Business and Route 688. A three-year crash analysis (7/1/2012 – 6/30/2015) revealed 12 angle collisions at this intersection. All these crashes involved vehicles turning from the side streets or continuing straight through the intersection. Eliminating left turns, the primary turning movement where crashes have occurred at this intersection, is intended to improve safety. Approximately 12,000 vehicles use this intersection each day.

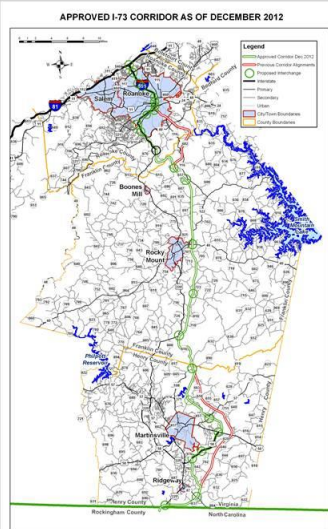
Our overall goal is to reduce intersections and create a limited access highway.



New directional islands to be constructed in the median on Route 220 to prevent left turns from side road.



New left turn lane to be constructed on Route 220 at the crossover south of the intersection to facilitate U-turns.



Moving the Approved I-73 Corridor to West of Martinsville

The US Army Corps of Engineers has stated that they will not approve an I-73 easterly route around Martinsville due to environmental concerns.

According to conversations we have had with key decision-makers, the CTB will entertain a request for move the approved corridor route to the west of Martinsville. It first requires a resolution from the Henry County Board of Supervisors.

The most likely westerly route would be along Route 220.

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Long Term Item: Creating Local Financing to Leverage Federal/State Funds for Improvements

- Northern Virginia (NVTA) and Hampton Roads (HRTAC) have created transportation authorities to meet the financing challenge for large, expensive projects; CB is more likely to support these projects
- A detailed conversation with USDOT regarding our INFRA grant application highlighted our inability to provide state/local matching funds for a short section of I-73 (NC line to Martinsville); not possible to win these grants without non-federal funds
- Is there an appetite among I-73 localities to request the General Assembly to authorize the creation of an I-73 Corridor Transportation Authority whereby funds raised locally would be set aside in a locally-controlled fund managed by an authority of locally elected officials?

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Presentation of proclamation regarding Tuesday, August 7, 2018 National Night Out

– Council Member Bowles read the proclamation and presented it to Officer Coretha Gravely and Neighborhood Watch captains in attendance. Police Chief Cassady thanked the neighborhood watch captains and committees and recognized the three National Night Out locations open to the public.



PROCLAMATION

**NATIONAL NIGHT OUT
August 7, 2018**

WHEREAS, the National Association of Town Watch (NATW) is sponsoring a unique, nationwide crime, drug and violence prevention program on August 7, 2018 entitled "National Night Out"; and

WHEREAS, the Annual National Night Out provides a unique opportunity for the City of Martinsville to join forces with thousands of other communities across the country in promoting cooperative, police-community crime prevention efforts; and

WHEREAS, Martinsville City Council plays a vital role in assisting the Martinsville Police Department and Sheriff's Office through joint crime, drug and violence prevention efforts in the City of Martinsville and is supporting "National Night Out 2018" locally; and

WHEREAS, it is essential that all citizens of Martinsville be aware of the importance of crime prevention programs and impact that their participation in Neighborhood Watch groups and their community can have on reducing crime, drugs and violence in Martinsville; and

WHEREAS, police-community partnerships, neighborhood safety, awareness and cooperation are important themes of the "National Night Out" and Neighborhood Watch programs;

NOW, THEREFORE I, Gene Teague, Mayor of the City of Martinsville, Virginia, do hereby call upon all citizens of Martinsville to join City Council and the National Association of Town Watch in supporting the "Annual National Night Out" and do hereby proclaim **Tuesday, August 7, 2018** as **NATIONAL NIGHT OUT AGAINST CRIME** in the City of Martinsville.

Gene Teague
Mayor

Read a proclamation recognizing former Martinsville Bulletin reporter Mickey Powell

– Council Member Hodge read the proclamation which will be mailed to Mr. Powell.



Proclamation

**RECOGNIZING FORMER MARTINSVILLE BULLETIN
REPORTER MICKEY POWELL**

WHEREAS, Mickey Powell began working for the Martinsville Bulletin in July, 2000, having worked previously for nine years as a reporter and news editor for the Eden Daily News; and

WHEREAS, during his work with the Bulletin, Mr. Powell's main focus was City government, but also included covering the Chamber of Commerce, PHCC, NCI, the Virginia Museum of Natural History, the Henry County Board of Supervisors, and a variety of other areas; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Powell was a "regular" at City Council meetings, budget and special work sessions, neighborhood meetings, regularly rode along with Council and staff on neighborhood tours, and was a frequent visitor to various municipal offices as he made efforts to cover a wide variety of government and community-interest issues; and

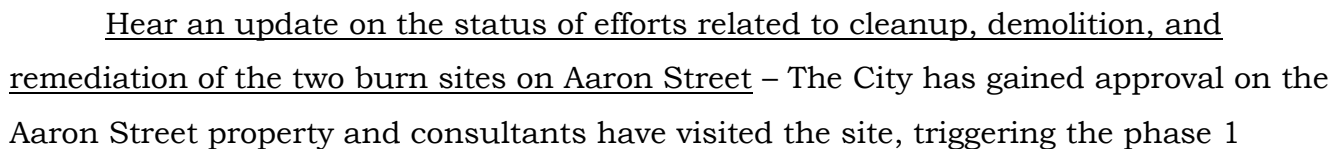
WHEREAS, Mr. Powell always made an effort to cover stories objectively, fairly, and accurately; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Powell left the Martinsville Bulletin in late June, 2018, relocating to Winchester, Virginia and taking a position with The Winchester Star, covering Clarke County in the northern tip of Virginia,

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Gene Teague, Mayor, and members of Martinsville City Council, on this 24th day of July, 2018 do hereby recognize and commend Mickey Powell for his work over an 18-year period with the Martinsville Bulletin, and proclaim our thanks and appreciation for his fair and objective coverage of City government and other local-interest issues. We extend our best wishes as Mr. Powell resumes his career in journalism in Winchester, Virginia.

Gene Teague, Mayor

Consider approval on second reading of Ordinance 2018-Z-3 amending the Zoning Map to extend the TND-O zone along the Fayette Street corridor – Council Member Lawson made a motion to approve the ordinance on second reading. Vice Mayor Martin seconded the motion with the following roll call: Council Member Hodge, aye; Council Member Bowles, aye; Council Member Lawson, aye; Mayor Teague, aye; and Vice Mayor Martin, aye. Motion passes 5-0.



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assessment of that location. Contractors will be working to remove the metal from the property to prepare the property for phase II. Consultants are also working to get additional funding for the cleanup of the property. 201 and 209 Aaron Street have been secured. 200 Aaron Street will be secured as part of the recent agreement; if the property is not secured by the owners then the City will handle it then bill them.

Consider setting a date for a special Council meeting to discuss options for filling a vacant Council seat – Council agreed on an open session for Tuesday, July 31 at 7:00pm.

Consider adoption of a resolution expanding the City's Urban Development Area (UDA) to include the "West End UDA" – Susan McCulloch summarized the plan and actions taken to expand the UDA. Council Member Hodge made a motion to adopt the resolution. Council Member Bowles seconded the motion with all council voting in favor.

Consider adoption of a resolution in support of the City's application for two Smart Scale Projects – Council Member Lawson made a motion to adopt the resolution. Council Member Bowles seconded the motion with all council voting in favor.

Consider approval of consent agenda – Council Member Bowles made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Council Member Hodge seconded the motion with all Council voting in favor.

BUDGET ADDITIONS FOR 7/24/18				
ORG	OBJECT	DESCRIPTION	DEBIT	CREDIT
FY18				
BUDGET ADDITIONS				
General Fund:				
01102926	405556	Categorical Federal - ARC Grant		10,000
01814248	503140	Health Hub - Prof. Services - Eng & Arch - Paradise	10,000	
		ARC Planning Grant		
01100909	490137	Recovered Cost - Public Safety		2,293
01311085	501200	Police Dept. - Overtime	130	
01311085	502100	Police Dept. - Social Security	8	
01311085	502110	Police Dept. - Medicare	2	
01217078	501200	Sheriff - Courts - Overtime	2,000	
01217078	502100	Sheriff - Courts - Social Security	124	
01217078	502110	Sheriff - Courts - Medicare	29	
		Various reimbursements for security patrols		
01102926	405555	Federal Categorical - Brownfields Grant - EPA		9,019
01812247	503136	Brownfields - Professional Services - Consultant	9,019	
		Grant reimbursement		
01100904	441104	Fines/Forfeitures - E-Summons		1,682
01311085	506139	Police Dept - E-Summons Equipment	1,682	
		Appropriate excess revenues		
Total General Fund:			22,994	22,994
FY19				
BUDGET ADDITIONS				
Capital Reserve Fund:				
16100905	416209	Sale of Surplus Equipment		3,260
16572362	508127	Tools & Equipment - Park Maintenance	3,260	
		GovDeals sale of '99 GMC pickup		
Total Capital Reserve Fund:			3,260	3,260

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Business from the Floor – Fire Chief Ted Anderson said it has been a pleasure to work with Council Member Hodge and wishes her well on her adventures. Anderson shared that Laura Lawson, the Fire Department Executive Assistant has been working hard on a grant which was awarded over \$200,000 grant money that will be used for the departments out-of-date air packs.

Comments by Members of City Council – Council Member Hodge said “it’s been real and it’s been fun”. Council Member Lawson reminded residents that the baseball season will end soon and invited residents to attend. Council Member Bowles invited residents to the Back to School Bash on Saturday. Vice Mayor Martin appreciates the mentorship and fellowship during the trip to VML last week with the City Manager and Mayor. Martin thanked Council Member Hodge for being a trailblazer. Mayor Teague thanked Council Member Hodge again for her service on Council.

Comments by City Manager – City Manager Towarnicki thanked Council Member Hodge also for her time on Council.

There being no further business, Council Member Hodge made a motion to adjourn the meeting; the motion was seconded by Council Member Bowles with all Council Members voting in favor. The meeting adjourned at 9:22 pm.

Karen Roberts
Clerk of Council

Gene Teague
Mayor